

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the August 2, 2006 Office Action issued in connection with the above-identified patent application. By this Amendment, claim 1 (the sole independent claim) has been amended as indicated above to include the features of claim 2 therein. Accordingly, claim 2 has now been cancelled. Also, the dependencies of claims 3, 4, 6, 8 and 9 have been changed as a result of the cancellation of claim 2. No new matter has been added.

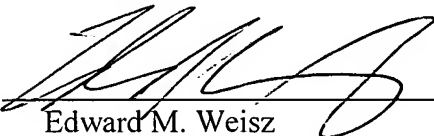
In the Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that claims 2-9, 13, 16, and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, applicant has amended claim 1 to include the features of claim 2 therein. Accordingly, it is believed that the now-amended claim 1 is in condition for immediate allowance. Moreover, claims 3-20 depending from amended claim 1 are also believed to be allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments, the application is now in condition for immediate allowance.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
COHEN, PONTANI, LIEBERMAN & PAVANE LLP

By



Edward M. Weisz
Reg. No. 37,257
551 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1210
New York, New York 10176
(212) 687-2770

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